

COLOMBIA VOLCANO

19 November 1985

Talking Points for DDI

Following months of rumbling the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia erupted 13 November, melting its snow cap.

- Resulting mudslide inundated Armero, 30 miles northeast of the volcano, killing at least 20,000.
- Manizales, Colombia's coffee capital, 40 miles northwest of the volcano, unaffected.

Both local and foreign disaster efforts well underway; US officials involved in rescue operations found Colombian police and army synchronized and local municipal control excellent.

- Center for air rescue operations at Colombian Air Force Base Palanquero, 35 miles north of Armero.
- Temporary camps for displaced at Mariquita, Lerida, and Guayabal.
- Global response generous.
- Private US firm, Occidental Petroleum, pledging \$ 1 million for victims.

As rescue activities near completion, Colombia faces additional immediate problems.

- Relocating and housing survivors.
- Finding employment for the survivors, most of whom hired farm workers.
- Rebuilding bridge at Mariquita and replacing road and railroad destroyed at Armero.
- Repairing any oil pipeline and electrical pylon damage.
- Preparing for possible M-19 guerrilla attack on military near Manizales.

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